

Published by Renna Media, LLC

Issue 155 • December 2020



First come, first served. CALL TINA FOR DETAILS 908-418-5586

> U.S. POSTAGE PAID BRIDGEPORT CT PERMIT NO. 390

ECRWSS

**PRSRT STD** 

## HARDING STUDENTS RECOGNIZED FOR PROMOTING ART

The Kenilworth Board of Education recognized four Harding Elementary students at a recent Board of Education Meeting for their performance promoting an art contest. The engaging performance by Devin Singleton, Carly, Olivia and Adriana Rivera was shared on social media to solicit participation in the contest. The winning artists' work is being used to personalize Harding School's new book vending machine. Once the vending machine is complete, students will "earn gold coins" that are redeemable in the machine for a book of their choice.

The idea came from an article about a school that repurposed a machine to dispense books instead of snacks. The article was shared with Harding Schools 1st grade teacher, Mrs. Bedford, and with excitement, she acted on securing a machine and reached out to the Harding School PTO to assist in launching the contest.

As a result of this effort, several art entries were submitted and the artists' designs have been selected. The video can be found on the Harding School PTO Facebook page https://bit.ly/323CiJp.



Photo credits: Rivera and Singleton family



SERVICE • COMFORT • PEACE OF MIND QUALITY HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING SERVICES SINCE 1981 24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE FALL SPECIAL! We Service All Makes & Models FURNANCE \$49 CALL TODAY TUNE-UP 732-329-3784 TRANE Plus any part and labor if repairs needed. Not to be combined www.carranoair.com with any other offers. It's Hard To Stop A Trane." IVAC CONTRACTORS, INC 0% DOWN , INTEREST FREE FINANCING, CALL FOR DETAILS **RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL** License Number: 19HC0035090



Kenilworth Life • Page 2 • December 2020

## BUSINESS + LIFE **I WORTH**

Kenilworth Business Life is published by Renna Media.

Over three thousand newspapers are printed monthly and distributed free to every home and business in Kenilworth.

Although great care has been taken to ensure the information contained within is accurate, Renna Media assumes no liability for errors or omissions. Renna Media welcomes the comments and concerns of its readers put into writing and sent to:

Tina & Joe Renna, Publishers 202 Walnut Ave., Cranford, NJ 07016 (908) 418-5586 Fax: (908) 709-9209 E-mail: info@rennamedia.com

© 2020 Contents of this newsletter cannot be reproduced without written consent from Renna Media.

Kenilworth Life is online at rennamedia.com like us on facebook.com

## **RENT ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE IN UNION COUNTY**

eviction because you are struggling to meet your rent payments? You may be eligible for rent through Community assistance Access Unlimited.

People who have fallen behind on their rent payments may be eligible for up to three months of back rent assistance. Applicants must already be at least one month behind on their rent payments.

Contact Community Access Unlimited at



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT US AT INFO@CAUNJ.ORG I (908) 354-3040

Are you a Union County resident in danger of info@caunj.org to inquire about this program. Landlords or any person who knows a renter who is struggling are encouraged to let tenants know about this program.

CAU is a Union County-based, statewide nonprofit that works to integrate people with disabilities and youth at risk into the general community through comprehensive supports.

Funding for this program has been provided by the City of Elizabeth and Union County.

To learn more about CAU, visit cauni.org or follow the agency on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Learn more about supporting the agency and become a monthly donor at caunj.org/support-us/.

#### **ABOUT COMMUNITY ACCESS UNLIMITED**

Community Access Unlimited (CAU), celebrating more than 40 years in 2020, supports people with special needs in achieving real lives in the community. CAU provides support and gives voice to adults and youth who traditionally have little support and no voice in society. CAU helps people with housing, life skills, employment, money management, socialization and civic activities. CAU also supports opportunities for advocacy through training in assertiveness, decision-making and civil rights. CAU currently serves more than 4,000 individuals and families, with the number served growing each year.

For more information about CAU and its services, contact us by phone at 908.354.3040, online at www.cauni.org or by mail at 80 West Grand Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07202.



And now, there's no better time to unlock the equity in your home! We've dropped our rates to as low as 3.00% APR\* and for a limited time, get approved for a Home Equity Line of Credit and enjoy \$0 Closing Costs and \$0 Fee\*\*.

For your convenience, you can easily apply for a loan online. For additional assistance, you can schedule an appointment through our website, via our mobile app, by texting "AFCUAPPT" to 43783 or by phone at 800-222-1329.

APR=Annual percentage rate. Based on 80% loan to value, direct deposit and automatic payment. Variable rate based on the prime rate plus or minus an index which is determined depending on loan to value, credit worthiness & adjusted quarterly. Loans limited to NJ and PA owner occupied 1-2 family dwellings. Rates are subject to change without notice. \*\* \$0 closing costs and refinance fee will be waived for credit lines of \$50,000 or greater. \$500 refinance fee for existing Atlantic Federal real estate loans below \$50,000. \$109 tax service fee may apply.



KENILWORTH | WEST ORANGE www.atlfedcu.com | 800.222.1329



# WE'RE PROUD TO BE NEW JERSEY'S ONLY HOSPITAL TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING WOMEN'S CARE EXCELLENCE AWARDS FROM HEALTHGRADES



# AND WE'RE THRILLED TO REPORT HEALTHGRADES' RECOGNITION OF THESE KEY SERVICES ...



Regional Medical Center

225 WILLIAMSON ST. • ELIZABETH, NJ 07202 908.994.5138 • www.TrinitasRMC.org

## **HOLIDAY EVENTS IN KENILWORTH**

Before Enjoying Kenilworth's annual Tree Lighting on Sunday, Dec. 6, Please Join the Kenilworth Historical Society at The Oswald J. Nitschke House (49 S. 21 Street) for "An Old-Fashioned Christmas" and Holiday Celebration with "Victorian Santa" and More - From 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 6, visitors will have an opportunity to meet and take photos with a safely "social-distanced" Victorian Santa on the open front porch of the Nitschke House and to visit the site's outdoor Christkindlmarkt, where the newly created Kenilworth Commemorative Coverlet, handcrafted gift items and holiday treats/baked goods will be available for purchase.

Those who wish to view the c. 1880 home authentically decorated for the holidays are welcome to do so in very small groups, contingent upon current coronavirus-related restrictions.

Admission to all activities is free. Masks/face coverings are required at all times, and temperatures will be taken upon entering the site.

Visitors are invited to bring letters to Santa and/or to bring, for the Nitschke House Cultural Heritage Tree, an ornament (labeled with their family name) that represents their family's heritage/culture.

(right) Many families visited the Nitschke House during last year's holiday celebration. Details about the Dec. 6 event will be posted on the Kenilworth Historical Society's Facebook page, website kenilworthhistoricalsociety.org.

RECLAIM YOUR HEALTH. RECLAIM YOUR LIFE.



JFK for Life offers comprehensive weight loss surgery and lifestyle solutions to help

patients lose weight and keep it off - for life.

# Join us at an upcoming December 8

Pre-Registration Required.

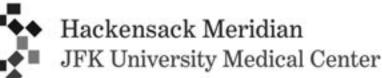
Call 732-744-5955 for more details or visit JFKMC.org/Bariatrics.

JFK For Life is the only bariatric surgery center in the area recognized for delivering the highest quality care by these leading insurance providers: Blue Cross, Aetna, Optum and CIGNA.





JFK For Life Bariatric Surgery Program 98 James Street, Edison, NJ 08820



FREE seminar:



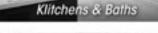
H.

## Call Today for a Free Estimate! 🔯 855.624.6655













ROOFING | SIDING | WINDOWS KITCHENS | BATHROOMS | BASEMENTS MASONRY | DECKS | PORCHES



AS SEEN ON

Payment Plans WINDOWS \$209 BASEMENTS \$395 KITCHENS \$389 BATHROOMS \$199 ROOFING \$249 DECKSIPATIOS \$189 SIDING \$289 PORCHESISTEPS \$185

o% Plans Available! Estimated monthly payments. Rates & payments based on credit approval.

VIRTUAL MEETINGS ALSO AVAILABLE

Interior & Exterior Remodeling | Family Owned & Operated

100% FINANCING AVAILABLE | 30+ YEARS EXPERIENCE



NJDCA 13VH07755300

# MagnoliaHomeRemodeling.com 🔯

#### Kenilworth Life • Page 6 • December 2020 **BLOOD DONORS URGENTLY NEEDED - CHRONIC SHORTAGES**

New Jersey Blood Services, a division of New York Blood Center (NYBC), wants to increase blood donations for area hospitals. The COVID-19 pandemic has created a chronic shortage across the country that shows no sign of improving. This is particularly dangerous given the looming uncertainty surrounding the pandemic's trajectory over the course of the next few months.

Blood is urgently needed. The region's healthcare system requires 1,500 donations each day to treat patients ranging from trauma victims and cancer patients to newborn babies and their mothers. Prior to the pandemic, blood drives were held at businesses, high schools, colleges and community groups. Most of those groups have had to cancel their blood drives due to COVID-19. Donations are at just 65% of prepandemic levels - well below what is needed by hospitals and patients in our area.

"This is an incredibly challenging time for our communities. We are now relying on people seeking out a place to donate. So far, that is not happening at the level we need," said Andrea H. Cefarelli, Senior Executive Director of Recruitment & Marketing for New York Blood Center.

We are asking our community to visit our donor centers or to find a convenient community blood drive to donate. "The Covid-19 pandemic has created blood shortages for all New Jersey and NY hospital systems, said Cefarelli. Donated blood is essential for trauma and surgery patients in need. We encourage healthy New Jersey residents, aged 16 to 75, to donate blood at NJBS blood drives and donation sites now. Visit NYBC.org or Call 1-800-933-BLOOD (2566) to make an appointment today."

#### **HOW NEW JERSEY RESIDENTS CAN HELP:**

To make an appointment to donate blood, visit donate.nybc.org/donor/schedules/zip.

NYBC also needs more partners to step up and help host drives in large venues. If you have a space available and would like to host a blood drive, please sign up at nybloodcenter.org/support-us/host-blooddrive/apply-host-drive.

For information on the extra precautions being taken to help prevent the person-to-person spread of COVID-19, visit our website.

#### **ABOUT NEW YORK BLOOD CENTER**

Founded in 1964, New York Blood Center (NYBC) is a nonprofit organization that is one of the largest independent, community-based blood centers in the world. NYBC, along with its

operating divisions Community Blood Center of Kansas City, Missouri (CBC), Innovative Blood Resources (IBR), Blood Bank of Delmarva (BBD), and Rhode Island Blood Center (RIBC), collect approximately 4,000 units of blood products each day and serve local communities of more than 75 million people in the Tri-State area (NY, NJ, CT), Mid Atlantic area (PA, DE, MD, VA), Missouri and Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, Rhode Island, and Southern New England. NYBC and its operating divisions also provide a wide array of transfusion-related medical services to over 500 hospitals nationally, including Comprehensive Cell Solutions, the National Center for Blood Group Genomics, the National Cord Blood Program, and the Lindsley F. Kimball Research Institute, which — among other milestones developed a practical screening method for hepatitis B as well as a safe, effective and affordable vaccine, and a patented solvent detergent plasma process innovating bloodpurification technology worldwide.

**A New Jersey** Blood Services A Division of New York Blood Center

# TAKE YOURSELF FURTHER

# **k** coolsculpting

The CoolSculpting treatment freezes and kills treated fat cells, eliminating them for good.

- Non-surgical with little or no downtime
- FDA-cleared, safe, proven effective
- Get \$400 off a large area until Jan. 1, 2021

Advanced Dermatology, PC Center for Laser & Cosmetic Surgery

1125 Saint Georges Avenue, Rahway, NJ



Tamar Mermelstein, RPA-C Specializing in medical and cosmetic dermatology

Schedule an appointment online or call 732-499-0440 GetMeGreatSkin.com

## FAITH LEADERS DISCUSS SUPPORT FOR ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION

#### Submitted by Gary Mignone

On November 12, NJ Sharing Network kicked off National Donor Sabbath weekend with an interactive Donation and Faith Panel Discussion that brought together faith leaders from throughout New Jersey to discuss why most major religions in the United States support organ and tissue donation as an unselfish act of charity. A recording of the panel discussion can be viewed on NJ Sharing Network's Facebook page or at www.YouTube.com/NJSharingNetwork. Some of the key messages from the panelists included:

E. Denise Peoples, Agape Family Worship Center of Rahway and NJ Sharing Network panel moderator, and double-lung transplant recipient - "We are extremely fortunate to have strong partners in our local faith-based communities who support our life-saving mission by discussing organ and tissue donation with their congregations and by sharing their inspirational stories and unique perspectives about donation."

Rev. Dr. Vanessa M. Brown, Rivers of Living Water Ministries UCC of Newark - "Life is one of the greatest gifts that you can give, and it is a gift that can be shared. It is part of us doing good in this world by saving lives."

Rev. Dr. Marilyn M. Harris, First Baptist Church of Teaneck - "We share information with our community about organ and tissue donation to show them what love looks like. Many in our

faith community have had life-saving transplants as a donor. and they show others what the gift of life looks like."

Rajesh Karnani, son of a tissue donor and member of the Hindu community - "My father was passionate about his family, his faith and his support for organ and tissue donation. He would often speak with our Hindu religious leaders to discuss the virtues of organ donation, and they recognized it as the best gift anyone could give to another person."

Rabbi Ari Lucas, Congregation Agudath Israel (CAI) of Caldwell – "Organ and tissue donation is supported by all major streams of Judaism. Many in our synagogue community have been profoundly affected by the generosity of people who gave and they are the greatest preachers of the importance of this because they are living testaments to the value of organ and tissue donation."

Fr. Edmund Luciano, Parish of the Visitation of New Brunswick, and heart transplant recipient - "The Catholic Church is very much in support of organ and tissue donation. We encourage our families to be aware of this. It is a testament of love for our neighbor."

Observed annually in November, National Donor Sabbath seeks to educate faith-based communities across the country about the critical need for organ and tissue donation, and the vital role faith plays in making the decision to register

For National Donor Sabbath tools and other resources visit NJSharingNetwork.org/donorsabbath

#### **ABOUT NJ SHARING NETWORK**

NJ Sharing Network is the federally designated non-profit organization responsible for recovering organs and tissue for the nearly 4,000 New Jersey residents currently waiting for a lifesaving transplant. With headquarters in New Providence, NJ, the organization is part of the national recovery system, serving the 110,000 people on the national waiting list. NJ Sharing Network was selected by NJBiz as one of the state's "Best Places to Work" for the third consecutive year. To learn more, get involved and register as an organ and tissue donor, visit NJSharingNetwork.org.



## **ANNOUNCING THE NEW OFFICE OF DR. EDWARD SOMMA IN BERKELEY HEIGHTS** "Providing exceptional comprehensive health care with unrivaled compassion and personalized attention for more than 2 decades"



Edward Anthony Somma, MD Internal Medicine



After graduating from medical school, Dr Somma served his internship in Internal Medicine at Trinitas Regional Medical Center. He then completed his residency in Internal Medicine at Seton Hall Post Graduate School of Medicine, where he was elected Chief Resident of Internal Medicine in his final year.

Dr. Somma has been in practice in Union and Middlesex counties for over 20 years, with an emphasis on excellence and compassion for his patients. He has served as the physician for the Elizabeth Fire Department, the Board of Health of Hillside and has served the Board of Education for Woodbridge NJ. He was granted the Humanitarian of the Year Award by Trinitas Health Foundation in May 2014, for his dedication to the community and his outstanding service to the goals of the Foundation.

Dr. Somma has special interests in various fields of Internal Medicine, including diabetes, obesity, cardiovascular diseases and arthritis/rheumatology. He has represented to major pharmaceutical companies, such as Schering-Plough and Pfizer, in a consulting and educational role for his peers. Dr. Somma has been a clinical educator for Seton Hall's Physician Assistant Program as an Associate Professor of Medicine for their Internal Medicine program.

## 654 Springfield Ave Berkeley Heights, NJ 07922 (908) 219-8800 · www.intuitivemedgroup.com

## **KEAN VOLUNTEERS JOIN EMERGENCY FOOD DISTRIBUTION EFFORT**

Kean students are supporting local families struggling with food insecurity during the COVID-19 pandemic by volunteering at Union County food distribution events throughout the Fall semester.

In a community partnership with the county, more than two dozen students volunteered on Saturday at an emergency food distribution site in the Vaughn-Eames parking lot. Students will continue to volunteer at the campus location as well as at Cedar Brook Park in Plainfield.

"The experience was so very humbling and rewarding," said Nives Migliaccio of Springfield, a graduate student in the writing studies program. "We helped over 1,000 families that day. I feel like a proud Kean cougar, and everyone involved was very kind and really cared deeply about their fellow citizens who are in need. I can't wait to volunteer next time!"

On Saturday, the volunteers offered curbside service, depositing bags of produce from the Community FoodBank of New Jersey into the trunks of cars at the drive-through event.

"Kean prides itself on preparing our students to become active, contributing members of their communities, and this is clearly evidenced by the commitment from our students to this important program," said Kean President Lamont O. Repollet, Ed.D.

Kean is currently the site of the county's drivethrough COVID testing program.

"We continue to work to ensure that our residents receive the necessary resources to support them during this time as they face unprecedented levels of unemployment, housing issues and food insecurity," said Union County Freeholder Sergio Granados '10, '16 MPA. "We thank the Community FoodBank of New Jersey and volunteers involved in coordinating this effort."

"The distributions have been a lifeline to many of our residents affected by the COVID-19 pandemic," Freeholder Chairman Alexander Mirabella said.

Senior criminal justice and psychology major Danielle J. Olistin of Woodbridge said she volunteered to give back to her community.

"Food is one of the main necessities in life, and it's awful to know that not everyone can afford to have the bare necessities in their households especially during this pandemic," she said. "If the service act is small or large, all types of volunteerism makes a difference in changing the lives of citizens in our community. All it takes is one person to begin the change."

Offering students an opportunity to participate in community service is a vital part of a Kean education. Kean students volunteer between



60,000-70,000 hours per year, according to county food distribution site. Acting Vice President for Student Affairs Matthew Caruso.

"We often hear from students that this is the most rewarding work they have ever performed," he said. "This kind of real-world experience is invaluable to our students' development and both their personal and professional growth."

Alyssa Ramirez, a senior biomedicine major from Somerset, said she will volunteer again at a

"It is a safe and great way to give back to the community especially with so many families affected by COVID-19," she said. "Kean provides us with various ways to volunteer, and there are a lot of students eager to help the community in any way possible."

For more information, including the schedule for emergency food distribution events, visit ucnj.org/covid19/food-distribution-events/.



#### The Homewatch CareGivers Difference **Redefining Home Care**

People are what make a house a home. Not stuff. Not chores. Not routines. People. That's why we take what we do far beyond household tasks.

Here, home care is human.



Homewatch CareGivers<sup>-</sup>

#### **Here For You Always**

- Live person available 24/7 so we can respond quickly when you need us
- Able to staff a caregiver within 2 hours Regular supervisory visits to ensure quality
- care
- Monitor each client and provide data-based reports about clients' well-being

#### **Caregivers with Purpose**

- National background and DMV checks conducted annually
- 12 hours annual training for all caregivers
- Offer caregivers who speak same language as loved one
- Caregivers matched to clients based on skills, interests, likes and dislikes

#### The Power of You + Us

- Person-directed care empowers the client
- Adherence improves when meaningful connections are made
- · Care for the whole person, not just their condition
- Facilitate communication with any involved providers/loved one

Tm really excited to partner with Homewatch CareGivers because they are at the leading edge of that effort to reinvent caregiving. Their approach is different: instead of focusing on the task, they focus on the person."

- Dr. Bill Thomas, geriatrician, author and aging expert

Homewatch CareGivers of Woodbridge P: 732.218.5758 655 Amboy Avenue Suite A105 | Woodbridge | hwcg.com/woodbridge

## **COVID-19: TIPS FOR OLDER RESIDENTS ON DEALING WITH ISOLATION**

#### Submitted by NewBridge Services

While the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact our communities, physical distancing remains the order of the day — especially for older adults.

But socializing is a basic human need, and studies show it contributes to better physical and emotional health. Isolation, on the other hand, is linked to depression, anxiety, cognitive decline, a weakened immune system, and high blood pressure, among other maladies.

Seniors must seek out ways to connect with others while minimizing their exposure to the coronavirus.

Michelle Borden, CEO of Parsippany based NewBridge Services, a nonprofit that offers counseling services, housing and educational programs in North Jersey, offers the following advice:

#### **USE TECHNOLOGY**

Video conferencing, using FaceTime, Zoom and other programs on smartphones, tablets or computers, has become a popular way to "gather" with family and friends. Getting started on the programs may be challenging for seniors new to technology; call a tech-savvy neighbor, friend or family member to coach you through the process.

Phones, whether 'smart' or landline, are also excellent for staying in touch; some people feel more comfortable conversing without being on camera. People can call in to join a Zoom conversation

Movie buffs with Netflix accounts can set up 'watch parties' using a free Google Chrome extension, which can be downloaded at netflixparty.com.

#### THE ART OF THE LETTER

If tech is not your thing, consider making connections the way people have for centuries: through letter-writing. Handwriting (or typing) letters allows you to process thoughts and feelings and create a bond with the recipient. Mailing or delivering 'thinking of you' cards is a thoughtful way to remind recipients they are not forgotten.

#### **JOIN AN ONLINE CLASS OR GROUP**

Many social groups, including religious communities, are hosting online gatherings. An organization called Senior Planet offers free access to virtual exercise classes. Online learning opportunities also abound. Platforms such as coursera.org and edX.org offer both free and fee options. Courses, which may be live-streamed, self-paced, or some combination, are taught by university professors.

The Osher Lifelong Learning Center at Rutgers University is running more than 30 online courses during its summer session, and registration will begin soon for the fall. Anyone age 50 and over can study areas of interest with no assignments or grades.

Selfhelp Community Services is an online community of seniors who take courses, enjoy

cultural experiences and discuss topics of interest in real time over their home computers and tablets. While volunteer opportunities are harder to come by during the pandemic, some organizations are seeking virtual helpers. The nonprofit Points of Light maintains a list of virtual volunteer opportunities.

#### **GET TOGETHER IN PERSON**

Seniors can socialize in person, as long as you take precautions. Walking, running or biking with a friend is a great way to stay both fit and connected. Keep at least a six-foot distance, and wear a mask if you're unable to maintain that distance. Some senior citizen groups offer fitness classes either outdoors or indoors, with participants well spaced and other safety measures in place.

Picnicking with a couple of friends or family members is a fun way to spend the day, but be sure to wear masks when not eating. Use hand sanitizer, especially if you're sharing any utensils. **STRUGGLING?** 

The pandemic is taking a toll on us all. To get through it, we have to make self-care part of our daily routine, and that includes staying connected with others. If you are struggling, contact NewBridge Services at 973-316-9333 to schedule a telehealth counseling session.

The Institute on Aging has a Friendship Line The Virtual Senior Center run by the nonprofit at 1-800-971-0016 that is both a crisis intervention hotline and a nonemergency warmline for emotional support.



## **KEAN STUDENTS, NEW BUILDINGS RECOGNIZED BY NJ ARCHITECTS GROUP**

Submitted by Margaret McCorry Architecture students in Kean University's Michael Graves College recently won three out of the four top student design awards from the regional chapter of the American Institute of Architects. The group — AIA Newark & Suburban Architects — also awarded silver medals for design to Kean's Liberty Hall Academic Center and Hynes Hall buildings.

Erick Soriano, a senior architectural studies major from Kenilworth, received a \$500 scholarship for his design, The Reconfigurable House, which reimagines the concept of a home

WOOD FLOORS Sand • Stain • Refinish • Repairs • Installation CARPET & RUGS Clean • Stretch • Sanitize • Repairs • Bind **RESTOREMYFLOORS.NET** A DIVISION OF CARPET DOCTOR LLC 116 SUSSEX ST. WESTFIELD, NJ 908-342-5048 Insured \* References \* Visa / MasterCard **10% Discount** On labor only. Materials not included. Cannot be combined with other offers. Exp. 12/31/20

**RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL** 

 Asphalt Works Driveways

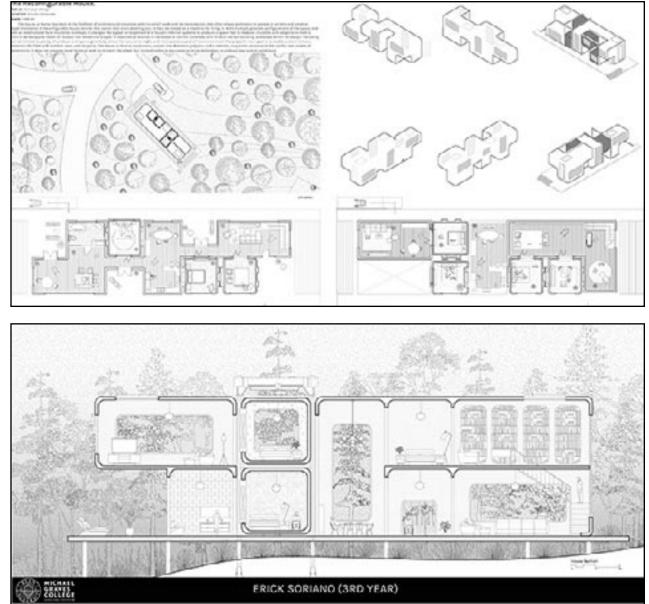
for modern living.

Master of Architecture students Andrew Engelhardt of Chicago and Charles Raimondo of to Kean from Union County College. "Enrolling Edison received honorable mentions for their projects — Engelhardt's design for the Yushuiland Cultural Center in China, and Raimondo's Mast Remediation design, which offers a way to remediate construction recognition said Kean's architecture faculty have contaminants during the building process.

"Watching the awards virtually with my family

and seeing my name as the final winner was simply pure joy," said Soriano, who transferred in Kean's architecture program was a great decision. I have grown as a student, a person and a professional, and expanded my horizons."

All three students who received AIA nurtured their design talent and challenged them to push past their limits.



(above) Kean University architectural studies student Erick Soriano from Kenilworth won a \$500 scholarship from AIA Newark & Suburban Architects for his design, The Reconfigurable House, which reimagines our concept of a home.





## **SCHOOLS JOIN NATIONAL MOVEMENT TO TACKLE STUDENT ISOLATION**

'Start with Hello' campaign from Sandy Hook Promise aims to connect kids, prevent violence

#### Submitted by Sheri Berkery

In these times of social distancing, it can be hard for children to feel, well, social.

Many are learning remotely, and even those who are in classrooms might have limited opportunities for peer interaction because of COVID-19 safety rules.

Recognizing the challenges that children would face this year, Kenilworth Public Schools incorporated additional social and emotional learning initiatives into its reopening plans. Sandy Hook Promise's "Start with Hello" program offered yet another opportunity for the district to connect with students.

"Objectives outlined in 'Start with Hello' closely align with units in the district's social and emotional curriculum, specifically the units that address community rebuilding as a response to the pandemic," said Dawn Cuccolo, Director of Student Personnel Services. "We are focusing on the themes of connection and inclusion throughout the school year as a part of our reopening plan, not just during the designated 'Start with Hello' week."

The "Start with Hello" campaign, which was observed nationally from Sept. 21-25, encourages socially inclusive learning environments. The program isn't new, but it took on added resonance as the pandemic changed or halted some routine group activities.

"Due to COVID-19, all students can empathize with the feelings of isolation due to physical and social distancing," according to the Sandy Hook Promise website. "Loneliness is the overwhelming feeling of being left out, and social isolation is not having frequent interactions with friends. Young people who feel this way may pull away from society, struggle with learning and social development, or choose to hurt themselves or others."

Kenilworth Schools continues to embrace the spirit of the program by making extra efforts to greet students and make all feel welcome. In preschool classes, for example, students dance to the "How Are You Today?" song during their morning meetings. It's a fun activity, but it also serves as a social emotional check-in.

"I hope by committing to small efforts like saying hello to others, we'll be able to lead to the big realization that inclusion and connectivity matter," said Superintendent Kyle Arlington.

During the official observation of the Sandy Hook Promise campaign, counseling staff members at David Brearley Junior-High School wrote "Start with Hello" sayings in sidewalk chalk at the student entrances. Messages included "We're glad you're here" and "Hello" in different languages. School counselors joined Brearley Principal Jeremy Davies in greeting students as they entered the building.

At Harding Elementary, teachers and other staff members greeted students at the doors to the school and classrooms. Morning announcements also encouraged the importance of saying "hello."

Harding Principal Ron Bubnowski sent home a message that explained how students and parents could act on the intention of the "Start with Hello" program.

Students could make a change in just three



steps: Seeing someone alone, then reaching out to help, starting with saying "hello."

Parents who are concerned about their children feeling isolated could suggest calling or FaceTiming a friend; talking about their emotions; and participating in the many activities that are still "open" -- including reading, biking, drawing or playing outdoors.

In addition to the "Start with Hello" program, Kenilworth looked for other ways to expand social and emotional learning (SEL) in its schools. Each school has a designated response team charged with developing a system for identifying and supporting students in need. The district provides SEL support through a formal K-6 program called "Second Step," and starting this year, it extended that program to grade 7. Kenilworth also contracted CarePlus to equip the schools with two licensed therapists who will work with students and faculty as needed.



(above) A preschool student at Harding Elementary dances during the class' morning meeting work. The 'How Are You Today?' song is part of the Kenilworth district's commitment to social emotional check-ins and an extension of the premise of Sandy Hook Promise's 'Start with Hello' program.



## I AM MY BROTHER'S KEEPER! ARE YOU?

Submitted by NJVN President Michael Boll

A few years ago, I was approached by a friend and co-worker of mine who expressed how extremely depressed he was and that he wanted to take his own life. Initially, I was completely shocked because this guy always seemed to be upbeat and happy all the time. Immediately, I asked him to come with me to a private office so we could talk about his awful situation. This was the first time in my life that I had a friend talk to me about suicide, and I knew I had to really do my best to help him get through this horrible ordeal. We spoke for a few hours and I listened closely to everything he said. I was able to convince him to immediately get some help and we went to the hospital. I stayed with him at the hospital and met with him when he was released. I did everything to show my friend that I had his back and because of this he is alive today. This awful situation inspired me to do whatever I possibly can to help others in need and shortly after we created our mobile outreach program.

In today's day and age, most of you have known a veteran or first responder that has taken their own life. Every day we lose nearly twentytwo veterans and approximately three hundred first responders every year to suicide. Even with all the awareness and new anti-suicide programs available, this number has not changed and, in some cases, has increased. The Veteran Hospitals' PTSD and mental health programs are packed with patients and unfortunately, they continue to grow. More of our first responders are also seeking help and utilizing some of the state programs being offered. So many people want to help and put an end to this crisis but sadly there isn't a foolproof program available that will stop this ever-growing crisis from destroying our uniformed heroes and their family's lives.

For the last two years our team has been working tirelessly with other charities to come up with a better solution to help prevent this epidemic from continuing. Personally, we believe our "Mobile Outreach Team" is really making a difference and everyday it helps our uniformed heroes live a better way of life.

The first thing we learned is to lose your "EGO" and seek out other groups and organizations that are looking to save lives. Then we find the right volunteers who are committed and dedicated with being a mentor to a person in crisis. Volunteers are extremely valuable because they want to be there, and they usually care more than the people who get paid for their services.

To date, we have been able to change and save countless lives because of the incredible commitment from the volunteers and other supporting groups.

Our approach is to aggressively seek out and contact a veteran or first responder in crisis. Our goal is to immediately work on building trust by being completely honest with the person in crisis. Using our network is wonderful, but it's more important to show the person in need that we are there for them and won't give up. Usually, we go out and meet with those in crisis and spend whatever time is needed to help them get in a better frame of mind. Bottom line "Human Contact" and "Friendship" is the key to saving a life.

Our Mobile Outreach Team is unique because it consists of mentors from all over the state that are willing to do whatever it takes to save and change a life.

If you are interested in joining our team please feel free to contact me at (973)-332-1556 or email mdbollio@optonline.net. To learn more visit njvn.org.

About New Jersey Veterans Network

We are a group of veterans and volunteers dedicated to helping our veterans and their families live better lives. Our team is raising awareness of our veterans needs by organizing public speaking engagements, meeting with business and political leaders across the state and sponsoring fundraising events. Our mission is to identify veterans and connect them with resources and programs designed to meet their unique set of needs. To ensure that EVERY single one of our veterans, who have sacrificed so much for this great country, receives the resources that they require and deserve.

If you are interested in joining our team, would like us to speak at your event, or contributing to our mission, call 973-332-1556 or email mdbollio@optonline.net. To learn more visit njvn.org.



(above) Operation Rebound if one of the outreach programs of the New Jersey Veterans Network. It is a mobile outreach team of mentors who help at-risk veterans and first responders to live a better life. The team has made huge strides with suicide prevention simply by building trust and cementing friendships with people in need. It's most important to be honest with each person in crisis and follow up with ways to help them regain purpose in life. Setting goals motivates them to stay on a positive track. If you are interested with joining the Operation Rebound Racing Team please feel free to contact Michael Boll at mdbollio@optonline.net or call 973-332-1556.

## **COMMUNITY HOPE CONNECTS VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES WITH HOUSING, SERVICES**

#### **CALL THE REFERRAL HOTLINE FOR ELIGIBILITY**

Veterans and their families who are experiencing a housing crisis may be eligible for emergency assistance such as motel/hotel stays, security deposits, rent, rental arrears, groceries and utilities through Community Hope.

Community Hope's Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program is currently assistance remotely. providing Urgent community-based services such as critical supplies and veteran wellness-checks are provided in person.

The increase in support services to veterans and their families during the COVID-19 pandemic is possible thanks to funding from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

To make a referral, please call the referral hotline at 1-855-483-8466 or email SSVF@communityhope-nj.org, or email Gema Diaz at gdiaz@communityhope-nj.org.

Community Hope is a nonprofit that helps individuals, including veterans, and their families, overcome mental illness, addiction, homelessness and poverty.

#### **VISION LOSS ALLIANCE OFFERS FREE VIRTUAL PROGRAMS**

Vision Loss Alliance of New Jersey will be programs, participants learn skills that allow able to offer FREE virtual wellness classes, peer support groups and technology-focused offerings over Zoom thanks to a grant from the Grotta Fund for Senior Care. Anyone who has low vision in New Jersey, as well as out-of-state residents, can participate.

VLANJ offers virtual classes in managing grocery shopping, yoga, Zen, meditation and mindfulness. Additionally, their tech talk classes help people understand their tech devices and how to use them to connect to online events. The classes have been a hit, helping people with vision loss stay active, learn skills and connect socially.

Vision Loss Alliance of New Jersey is a nonprofit organization serving people who are blind or have low vision. Through the group's them to manage their lives, and create a welcoming community in which they feel safe and supported.

The Grotta Fund provides its grantees with opportunities for technical assistance, learning, and networking with other non-profits. In turn, grantees are encouraged to promote the results of their grant, leverage funding, and sustain programs which have been funded by Grotta. The fund is administered through the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater MetroWest NJ.

Classes То Register for visit https://www.vlanj.org/programs/

The post Vision Loss Alliance's Virtual Classes Get a Boost from Grotta Fund first appeared on Morris County, NJ.





Kenilworth Boy Scout TROOP 83 Christmas Tree & Wreath Sale VFW Post 2230 33 N. 21st St. Kenilworth

Sales begin December 4th

Weekends in December Thursday: 6pm-8pm Friday: 6pm-8pm Saturday: 10am-8pm Sunday: 10am-6pm

#### **DEAR SENIOR MEMBERS:**

We have been thinking of all of you! We don't know when the Kenilworth Senior Citizens Club will be open again. Looking forward to that time when we can all be together as brothers and sisters. Until then, we wish all of you a Happy Thanksgiving and Happy Holidays and a healthy 2021 New Year!

#### **BE SAFE, BE WELL.**

Your officers, John Barton, President Emily Grimaldi Vice President Pat Barton Secretary Lillian Furge Treasurer

## **ST. THERESA'S GIVING TREE STARTS NOV 28**

With Thanksgiving behind them, Social Concerns will then be collecting donations for a "giving tree" which will be located in St. Theresa's church starting Saturday, November 28th.

The tree is decorated with tags with needed items written on them. Donors simply take as many tags as they wish and return the items to the church for distribution.

The orders on the tags were collected from needy families within the community as well as Covenant House, Catholic Charities and St. Joseph's Social Service Center located in Elizabeth. If you are in need please call the Rectory (908) 272-4444.



(above, l-r) 2018 Volunteers hanging wish list ornaments on the St. Theresa Giving tree, Kristen Williams, Samantha McEvoy, Polly Johnston, Dianne Perona, and Dee Phillips.

# Marketing Toolbox

Renna Media offers a full range of marketing services, in print and online, hyperlocal to regional, for every budget and market size.

#### **NEWSPAPER ADVERTS**

We mail 135,000 newspapers to evry home and business in 21 towns, You can advertise in any number of towns. ads start at \$60.

#### **FULL COLOR PRINTING**

We print flyers and menues, full color, two sided, on coated stock for only \$35 per thousand.

#### **DIRECT MAIL**

Insert your flyer into the newspapers and get it mailed to every home and business for \$60 per thousand and as low as \$30 per thousand for higher quantities.

#### **ONLINE MARKETING**

Online ads and press releases designed and placed to drive traffic to your website and get your phone ringing.

#### **SOCIAL MEDIA**

We can design and/or manage your social media campaign from passive to aggressive plans customized to work within your budget.

## WEBSITE AND SEO SERVICES

Start with an audit/analysis of your website giving you a report and recommendations for \$250.

It is highly recommended to have a marketing plan and budget before spending.

## CALL JOE RENNA FOR A FREE CONSULTATION. 908-447-1295

## **DRIVE LOCAL TRAFFIC TO YOUR WEBSITE**

- Get unlimited clicks
- Trackable results
- Free ad design and copywriting
- Paid search engine promotions
- Posts are shared through social media

#### Call Joe Renna 908-447-1295

See samples on our websites and facebook pages.



ONLY

1 year contract

\$365

**P** D R

#### RENNA MEDIA NEWSPAPER RATE SHEET WE MAIL 135,000 NEWSPAPERS MONTHLY!



1.5° x 4.5°

Back cover, front page hanner and front box reserved on first come.

first served basis. Current advertiser has right of first refusal

\$240

FRONT PAGE BOX

Make Checks payable to Renna Media, 202 Walnut Avenue, Cranford, NJ 07016 Visit RennaMedia.com for online publications.

Photo albums, video and advertising opportunities.

Peterstown

# Howdy Partners! Online Marketing is like the Wild West

Too many carpetbaggers are exploiting business owners, making empty promises that don't materialize.

Too many businesses are stuck in contracts with no return on investments, no way to check if the work is getting done, and needing to invest more to make things right.

The following is a guide to Renna Media services and costs that you can compare to your present provider.

I highly recommend doing an independent audit of your website!

Contact Walter Watson at walter@www-online-enterprises.com

He does a great job analysing and making recommendations.

It is only \$250 and can save you time, money and headaches.

Thank you. - Joe Renna

# **Full Service Online Marketing**





#### **Online Marketing Items**

• Website ads and Social Media Posts, Classified ads .....\$20 per item - Special bulk price.....Block of 20 items \$100 Including: Press releases / Classified Ads

Web Page / Calendar Event / Monthly Banner ads

Extra Boost:

- Blast your online ad or press release to a targeted market: .....\$100
- National Press Release Distribution to 300 to 500 news outlets ......Budget choice from \$300 to \$500.

#### Website / SEO services

- Website Audit/Analysis and recommendation plan: .....\$250
- Website creation/update:.....\$2,400 (Cost for average website: 12 pages, contact form, SEO friendly, responsive design)
- Website Hosting: ......\$300 per year Includes website hosting, software updates, monthly website content updates
- SEO Services: .....average cost \$1,000 \$2,000 per month Custom tailored solutions: Google Ranking, Local SEO, Social Marketing

#### Video advertising

Production:

- Product placement \$250
- 30-second commercial \$500
- 3-minute spot \$1,000
- 30-minute show \$1,500
- 3-hour shoot \$2,000

Do not commit to a service unless you have a solid marketing plan and budget.

Your plan should work on paper before you spend dime one. Don't waste money just trying something. There is no magic bullet. **Call Joe for a free consultation.** 

## Call Joe Renna 908-447-1295 Email: JoeRenna@RennaMedia.com



24/7 ATM ACCESS

# SPENCER SAVINGS BANK

# Your Town. Your Bank. Your People.

#### Introducing Our Expanded Union County Team

At Spencer Savings Bank, we believe in strength, stability, service quality and supporting our communities. For over 100 years we've put people first. We've been in Union County for the last 30 years and continue to grow our business here. Our expanded Union County team is made up of, not only the strongest banking professionals in the area, but members who grew up here, live here and have serviced this community for years. Whether you're a Union County resident or business, our dedicated team will help you make the most of all the banking solutions Spencer has to offer. We invite you to contact us and meet our team members today!



Rich Vaill Business Development Officer Team Leader

#### Learn more about our Union County Team at spencersavings.com/unioncounty.



4 Union County Financial Centers Westfield / Cranford / Union / Elizabeth

20 Financial Centers Throughout New Jersey 1-800-363-8115 • spencersavings.com 企 ink